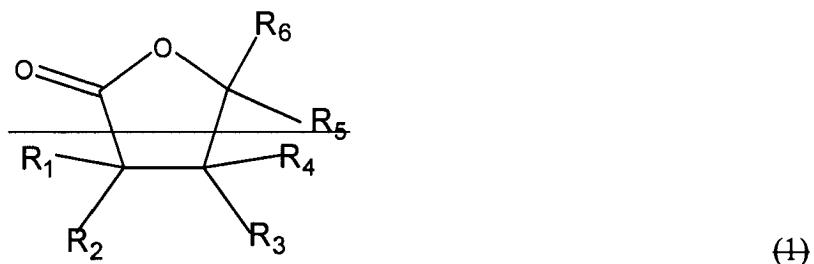


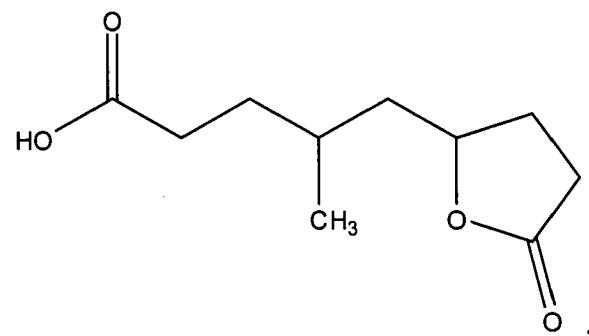
**1.3 IN THE CLAIMS:**

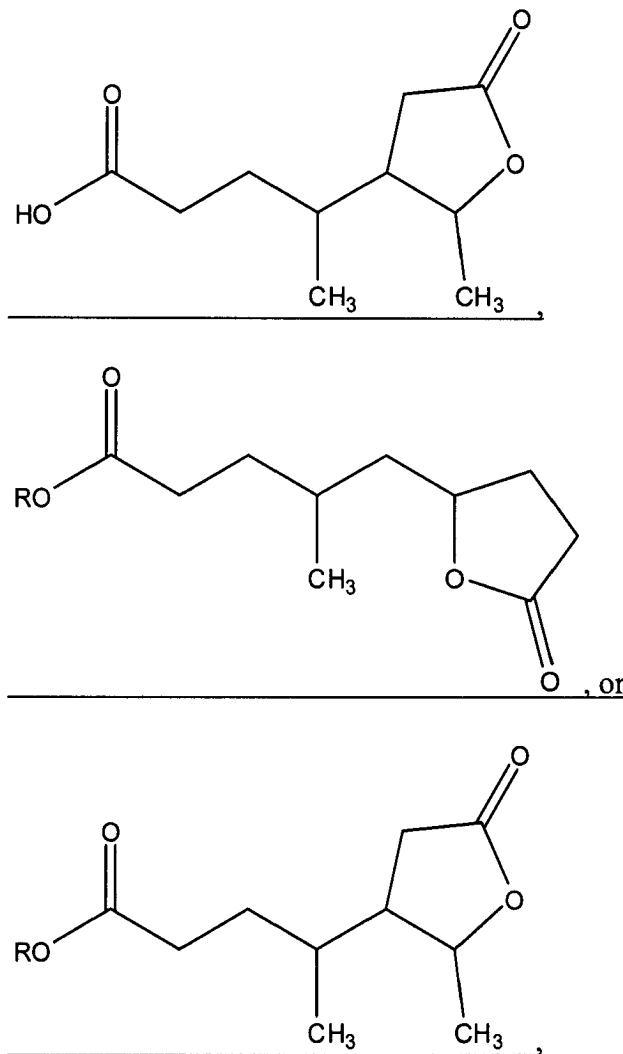
*This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:*

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the liquefaction of lignocellulosic or cellulosic material, wherein solid lignocellulosic or cellulosic material is heated at a temperature in the range of from 100 to 300°C in the presence of an acid catalyst and a solvent, wherein the solvent-to-solid material weight ratio is at most 50, the acid catalyst is present in a concentration of at most 50% by weight of acid based on the weight of solvent and acid, and the solvent comprises a compound having a ~~gamma lactone group of the general~~<sup>the</sup> molecular formula:



~~wherein R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>6</sub> each represent, independently, a hydrogen atom or an organic group connected with a carbon atom to the lactone group.~~





wherein **R** is C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The process according to of claim 1, wherein the compound ~~having a gamma lactone group~~ is obtainable from levulinic acid by hydrogenation, dehydration, aldol condensation, ~~dimerisation~~dimerization or ~~oligomerisation~~oligomerization, esterification with an alcohol, or a combination of two or

more of these reactions.

6-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The process according to of claim 1, wherein the solvent consists essentially of one or more of the solvent compounds defined in claim 1.
11. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The process according to of claim 1, wherein the acid catalyst is a strong mineral or organic acid having a pKa below 4.7.
12. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The process according to of claim 11, wherein the acid is phosphoric acid or sulphuricsulfuric acid.
13. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The process according to of claim 11, wherein the acid is oxalic acid, 2-oxopropanoic acid, maleic acid, (1E)-prop-1-ene-1,2,3-tricarboxylic acid, 2,3-dihydroxysuccinic acid, furan-2,5-dicarboxylic acid, or a combination of two or more thereof.
14. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The process according to of claim 1, wherein the acid catalyst is present in a concentration of at most 20% by weight.
15. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The process according to of claim 11, wherein the solvent-to-

solid material weight ratio is in the range of from 3 to 20.

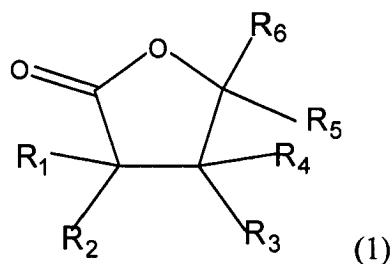
16. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The process according to of claim 1, wherein the temperature is in the range of from 120 to 250°C.

17. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The process according to of claim 1, wherein the pressure is in the range of from 0.1 to 15 bar (absolute).

18-20. (Canceled)

*Please add the following new claims:*

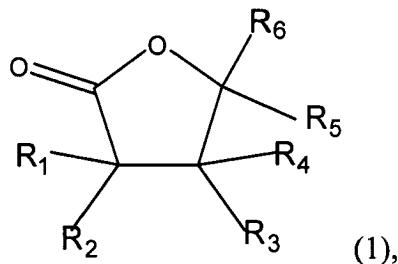
21. (New) A process for the liquefaction of lignocellulosic or cellulosic material, wherein solid lignocellulosic or cellulosic material is heated at a temperature in the range of from 100 to 300°C in the presence of an acid catalyst and a solvent, wherein the solvent-to-solid material weight ratio is at most 50, the acid catalyst is present in a concentration of at most 50% by weight of acid based on the weight of solvent and acid, and the solvent comprises a compound having a  $\gamma$ -lactone group of general molecular formula:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>6</sub> each represent, independently, a hydrogen atom or an organic group connected with a carbon atom to the lactone group, and further wherein the compound having a  $\gamma$ -lactone group is obtainable from levulinic acid by hydrogenation, dehydration, aldolcondensation, dimerization or oligomerization, esterification with an alcohol, or a combination of two or more of these reactions.

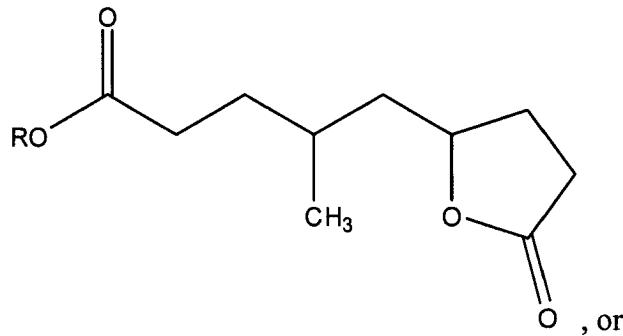
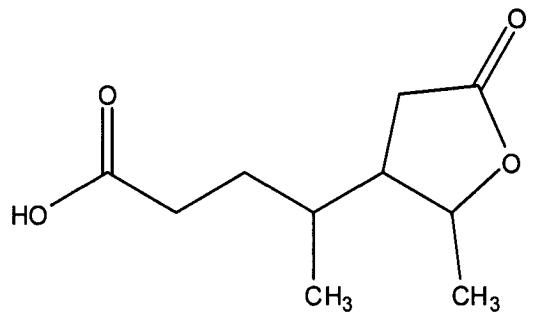
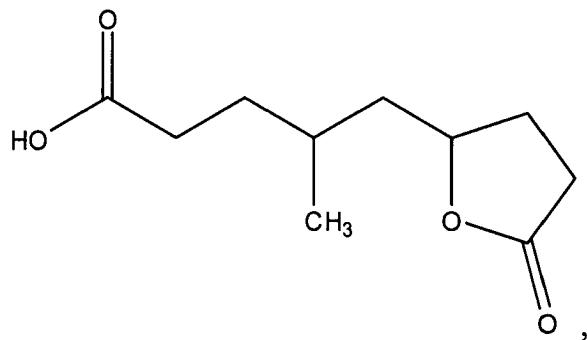
22. (New) The process of claim 21, wherein the solvent-to-solid material weight ratio is in the range of from 3 to 20.

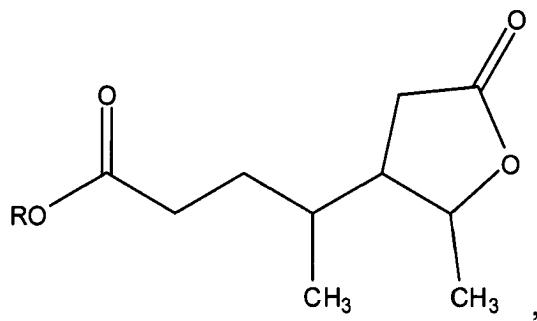
23. (New) A process for the liquefaction of lignocellulosic or cellulosic material, wherein solid lignocellulosic or cellulosic material is heated at a temperature in the range of from 100 to 300°C in the presence of an acid catalyst and a solvent, the acid catalyst is present in a concentration of at most 50% by weight of acid based on the weight of solvent and acid, and the solvent comprises a compound having a  $\gamma$ -lactone group of the general molecular formula:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>6</sub> each represent, independently, a hydrogen atom or an organic group connected with a carbon atom to the lactone group, and further wherein the solvent-to-solid material weight ratio is in the range of from 3 to 20.

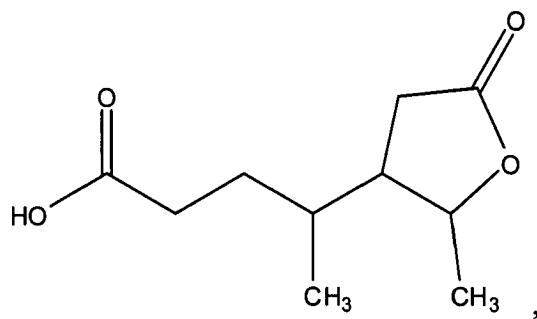
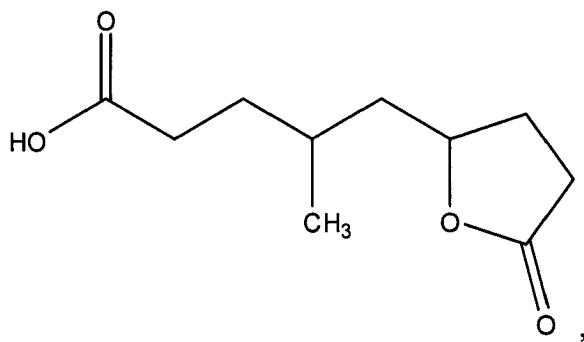
24. (New) A process for the liquefaction of lignocellulosic or cellulosic material, wherein solid lignocellulosic or cellulosic material is heated at a temperature in the range of from 100 to 300°C in the presence of an acid catalyst and a solvent, wherein the solvent-to-solid material weight ratio is at most 50, the acid catalyst is present in a concentration of at most 50% by weight of acid based on the weight of solvent and acid, and the solvent comprises, wherein the solvent comprises a compound having the molecular formula:

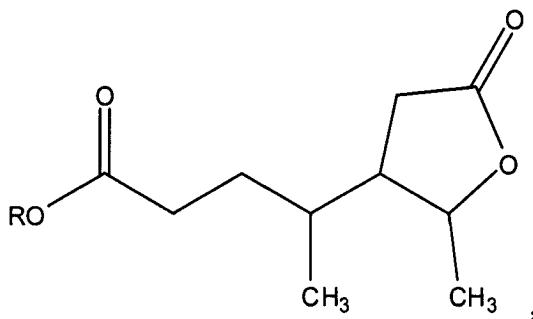
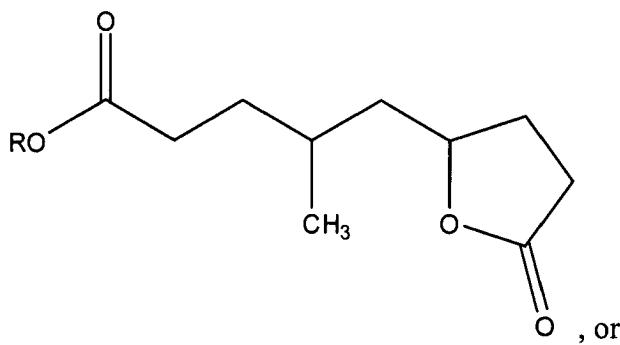




wherein **R** is C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl.

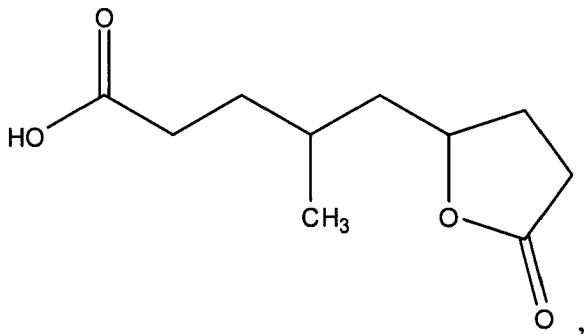
25. (New) A process for the liquefaction of lignocellulosic or cellulosic material, wherein solid lignocellulosic or cellulosic material is heated at a temperature in the range of from 120 to 250°C in the presence of an acid catalyst and a solvent, wherein the solvent-to-solid material weight ratio is in the range of from 3 to 20, the acid catalyst is present in a concentration of at most 50% by weight of acid based on the weight of solvent and acid, and the solvent comprises a compound having the molecular formula:

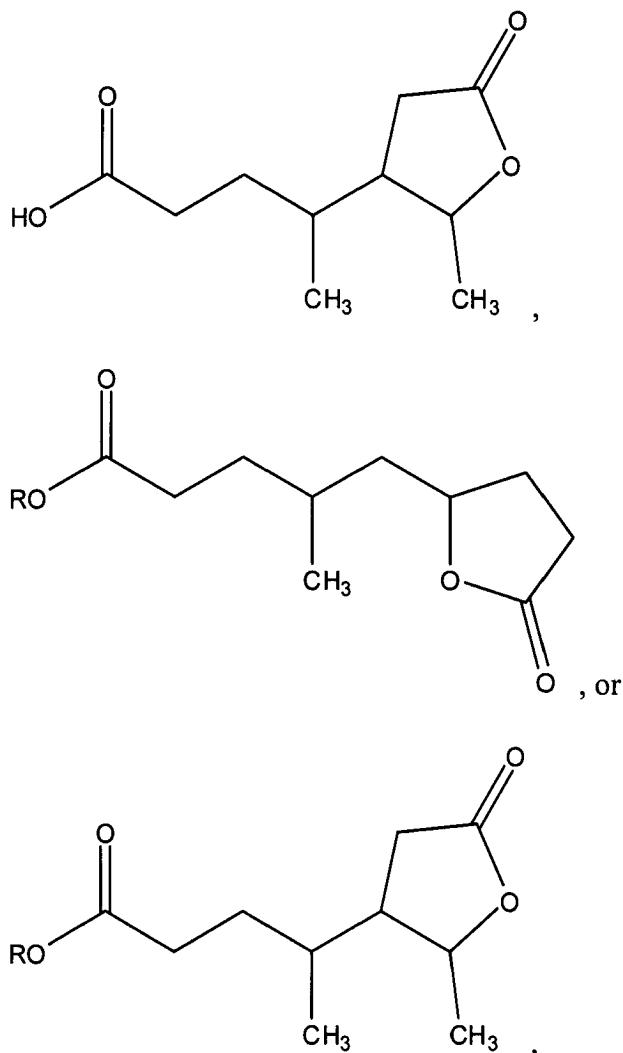




wherein **R** is C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl.

26. (New) A process for the liquefaction of lignocellulosic or cellulosic material, wherein solid lignocellulosic or cellulosic material is heated at a temperature in the range of from 100 to 300°C in the presence of an acid catalyst and a solvent, wherein the solvent-to-solid material weight ratio is at most 50, the acid catalyst is present in a concentration of at most 50% by weight of acid based on the weight of solvent and acid, and the solvent comprises a compound having the molecular formula:





wherein **R** is C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl, and further wherein the acid catalyst is oxalic acid, 2-oxopropanoic acid, maleic acid, (1E)-prop-1-ene-1,2,3-tricarboxylic acid, 2,3-dihydroxysuccinic acid, or furan-2,5-dicarboxylic acid, or a combination of two or more thereof.